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Christmas Gift Ideas

# AMAA

## News

Publication of the  
Armenian Missionary Association of America  
140 Forest Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652  
December, 1989, VOL. XXIII, No. 7  
Telephone: (201) 265-2607, 2608

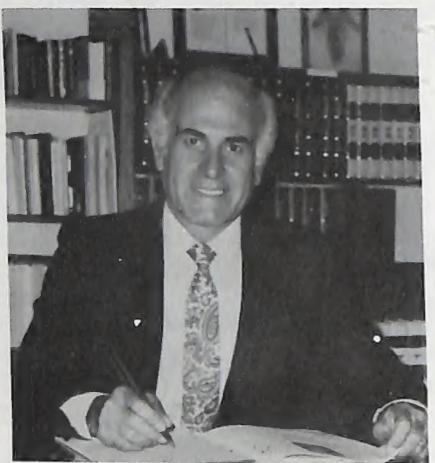
Editor:  
**Movses Boghos Janbazian**



Participants in an AMAA-supported Christian youth camp program  
in Kessab, Syria — August, 1989

## ARMENIA: THE CONTINUING CALL TO UNITY

—by Movses B. Janbazian



The Rev. Movses B. Janbazian

Never in its recent history has Armenia experienced the serious crises it is facing now . . .

. . . The destruction of forty percent (40%) of the country caused by last year's catastrophic earthquake;

. . . The costly and monumental task of rebuilding the shattered economy of the country and the battered lives of the victims of that disaster;

. . . The continued persecution of Armenians in Azerbaijan and the precarious condition of the Armenian population of Artsakh;

. . . The persistent intransigency of Azerbaijan and its continued economic blockade of Armenia.

The immediate effects of these problems are quite apparent and can be seen in all aspects of the life of our people in Armenia—prolonged homelessness, shortages and food, lack of fuel, limited health care, disruption of relief and rebuilding efforts, and so on.

These current realities, may also generate in the long run problems of such grave consequences that the result, at best, will be a seriously weakened Armenian nation—mass emigration to seek work and shelter in other Soviet republics . . . new waves of emigrants to Western countries . . . the physical and emotional scarring of an entire generation of Armenian children . . . a lack of adequate education due to the damaged school system and the precarious living condi-

tions of today's children and youth. Armenia may well suffer the loss of an entire generation of intellectuals, scientists, artists and academicians.

The current problems, moreover, coupled with the present developments in and the uncertain future of the existing political order in the Soviet Union, may tempt Armenians to indulge in acts of desperation; thereby making Armenia even more vulnerable to its hostile neighbors.

These issues and problems, with their immediate effects and potential dangers, represent an emergency that calls for an immediate response by all Armenians everywhere.

On the wake of last year's earthquake, it was encouraging to see that many Armenian organizations in the diaspora worked tirelessly and with devotion to provide relief to the victims of that disaster. However, their noble efforts were often undermined by duplication, lack of coordination, senseless competition and uncooperative attitudes, which often limited the desired effectiveness of the relief work.

Recently we were gratified to see hopeful signs that we, Armenian-Americans, may have learned a valuable lesson from past mistakes—that, as the leading community in the Armenian diaspora, we must address national emergencies in a unified manner, and that we have to create effective channels of communication and cooperation among ourselves to respond promptly and effectively to any emergency that may threaten our nation. Among the recent noteworthy expressions of unity were:

—The united delegation of all Armenian organizations visiting the Soviet Ambassador, Yuri Dubinin, on October 14, 1989, to protest Azerbaijan's blockade of Armenia;

—The public appeal on the same subject placed as a one-page ad in the September 21st issue of the *New York Times* under the signature of 12 Armenian-American religious, political and relief organizations; and

—The establishment of the United

Armenian Fund / Airlift Project (UAF/AP) with the participation of Mr. Kirk Kerkorian's charitable foundation and six Armenian-American organizations, including the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

These new developments in our community provide a rare occasion for joy and hopeful anticipation.

The creation of UAF/AP especially moves us to look forward to achieving more productive cooperation between Armenian-American organizations, as the newly founded organization captures in its structure and purposes the common desire of all Armenians—to provide urgently needed relief supplies to Armenia in unified manner and as effectively and quickly as possible.

The founding of the UAF/AP also moves us to believe that we all have finally come to the realization that . . .

—The very existence of our Motherland is at stake and that we cannot allow our well-intentioned efforts to be lost in the small worlds of our personal and organizational egos;

—The noble purpose we share—helping our compatriots in the Motherland—overshadows the petty barriers and prejudices dividing us;

—It is high time for us to show enough maturity to realize that the success of our respective efforts is enhanced by the degree of unity of mind, heart and action that we apply to each effort; and that,

—We have to aim at creating even stronger interorganizational ties so that we can effectively address any new contingencies that may arise from the complex and rapidly changing social, political and economic realities in today's Soviet Armenia.

Our generation has been destined by God to live through one of the most critical moments in the history of our nation, and we pray that God will help all of us to act with such an awareness of our grave responsibility that we shall become a blessing to our nation and a source of inspiration to our descendants.

May God bless us with a firm renewed determination to face the present challenges in a spirit of true unity.

## AMAA 70TH ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS INTENSIFIED MISSIONARY EFFORTS WORLDWIDE

The 70th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) took place on October 10-15, 1989, at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA. As is customary, the meeting was held in conjunction with a number of activities related to the wider mission of the 71-year-old organization.

A retreat/seminar, which has become a regular feature of the AMAA Annual Meetings, took place on October 12 and 13, with more than 40 pastors and lay leaders in attendance. This year's theme was "Church Planting and Church Growth." The presentations and discussions were led by Dr. Henry Schmidt of the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary of Fresno and Dr. Edmund Janzen of Fresno Pacific College. The theme was a suitable one, in view of the great emphasis the AMAA is placing on its home missions program and on planting of new churches in growing Armenian communities in the United States and Canada.

The AMAA Board of Directors met on Friday, October 13 and 14, to review the past year's activities and to plan for the coming year. Among the important deci-



Participants in the AMAA 70th Annual Meeting Seminar/Retreat.

sions taken by the Board was to increase AMAA support for Armenian communities in the Middle East and our people in Armenia, where many of our compatriots are going through very difficult times. The AMAA will further strengthen its relations with its mission partners in these areas and will endeavor to encourage and assist local leadership.

The Annual Meeting Banquet, which took place on Saturday evening, October 14, honored Henry and Eunice Gertmenian of Oakland, CA, for their unselfish devotion and outstanding services to the missionary outreach of the AMAA.

On Sunday, October 15, the Annual Meeting Service of Praise was held at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of

### *The Inspirational Corner*

#### WHAT PRICELESS GIFTS!

Three wisemen traveled from afar  
With gifts both rich and rare,  
Each guided by an unknown star;  
Their gifts had to share.

Some frankincense, a wedge of gold,  
And myrrh—what could this mean?  
What secrets were these Magi told,  
What vision had they seen?

Their pathway led to Bethlehem,  
Where lay a little Child—  
A newborn cradled in a stall  
On whom His mother smiled.

Jesus was that Infant's name,  
Our hearts He came to win;  
God in the flesh was He who came  
To save us from our sin.

The gold reveals His kingly reign  
From all eternity—  
A rule that someday will be plain  
For all mankind to see.

Then frankincense with fragrant scent  
That rises to God's throne,  
Symbolic of a priestly work  
This world has never known.

But what of myrrh, that bitter spice  
With which to bury dead?  
How could this priest be king in death  
By making hell His bed?

—Dennis J. De Haan  
Ah, herein lies God's gift of love  
To sinners here on earth;  
For since His Son left heaven above,  
A cross eclipsed His birth.

A cross on which the world could see  
Him pay sin's awful price.  
For no one else could sinless be  
To make the sacrifice.

And when redemption's work was done.  
The powers of death gave way;  
So now when sinners trust God's Son,  
They are reborn that day.

How fitting, then, the wisemen's gifts,  
The spices and the gold;  
But far more priceless is God's Gift—  
A Gift of love untold!

From Radio Bible Class News

## AMAA HONORS HENRY AND EUNICE GERTMENIAN

Henry and Eunice Gertmenian of Oakland, CA, were honored at the 70th Annual Meeting Banquet of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) that took place in Fresno, CA, on October 14, 1989. Testimonials to Mr. and Mrs. Gertmenian were offered by The Rev. Dr. G.H. Choupourian, Honorary Executive Director of the AMAA; Mrs. Joyce Stein, on behalf of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation; Mr. Harold DeMirjian, representing the Haigazian College Board of Trustees; and Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian, President of the AMAA. The Gertmenians were unable to be present, but they were represented by their son, The Rev. Dr. Paul Gertmenian. The Gertmenians' association with the

AMAA goes back more than half a century. Over that span of time one would be hard put to name a single AMAA mission or relief program that was not embraced and supported, spiritually and financially, by Henry and Eunice. Henry also gave generously of his time, serving the AMAA as Chairman of the AMAA District Committee, and as a chairman, officer and member of many AMAA committees and related organizations.

In the words of The Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, Executive Director of the AMAA, "The wide range of Mr. and Mrs. Gertmenian's contributions to the AMAA are too numerous to list. Over the years they have played a vital role in the enhancement of the scope and effec-

tiveness of the worldwide mission and Christian ministry of the Association. Their genuine Christian stewardship and missionary spirit have led many people into mission involvement; their many and signal benefactions have touched the lives of countless people around the world; and their sincere friendship and daily prayers have provided unparalleled encouragement to several generations of AMAA executives, Board members, and Christian workers. We celebrate the lifelong fellowship of Mr. and Mrs. Gertmenian in our mission, and pray that the Lord will abundantly bless their lives and unabated efforts that have been so lovingly dedicated to the preaching of the Gospel of Christ in word and in deed."

### AMAA 70TH ANNUAL MEETING (continued from page 3)

Fresno, led by The Rev. Bernard Gueguezian, Pastor of the Church. Following the service, the Annual Meeting of the AMAA took place under the Chairmanship of Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian in the sanctuary of the host church. The reports and financial statements presented at the Meeting demonstrated an unprecedented growth in the scope of the mission and service ministries as well as the financial outlays of the AMAA during the past 1988-89 fiscal year.

Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- During fiscal 1988-89, the consolidated net worth of the AMAA reached \$27,893,000.

- Although the Armenian earthquake disaster absorbed much of the Association's human and material resources, thanks to the generosity of its members and supporters, during the past fiscal year the AMAA was able to respond to physical and spiritual needs with a budget of \$2.2 million in addition to its expenditures for Armenia Relief, allocated to educational, medical, social service, evangelism, church, relief and child care programs in 16 countries around the world.

- The 1989-90 projected budget is \$2,254,000. This amount is allocated to

a wide variety of missionary, evangelism, educational and relief projects serving Armenians in the diaspora.

- An Armenian Refugee Coordinating Committee was formed to help those refugees who have fled from their homes in Iran and are in asylum countries seeking an acceptable solution to their plight.

- Approving recommendations made by its Armenia Relief Task Force, the AMAA has provided for a Wind Turbine Electric Generator, a Water-Pumping Windmill, a Compressed Soil Block Machine, and two fully-equipped Mobile Medical/Psychiatric Clinics. Earlier the AMAA had shared with Medical Outreach for Armenians a shipment to Armenia of two planeloads containing medical supplies, food, clothing and blankets.

- The Association has established an Armenian Earthquake Orphan Committee to help on a continuing basis those orphans in Armenia, who need financial, medical and other forms of assistance.

- The leadership of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE), with extensive AMAA support, is struggling to meet the needs of its 22 member churches, schools and impoverished Armenians suffering from civil war, unemployment or economic deprivation.



AMAA President, Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian, chairing the 70th Annual Meeting.

The 70th Annual Meeting of the AMAA showed, once again, that the Association is flexible, resilient and responsive. As new problems and challenges have arisen during this past year, the AMAA has evaluated each situation and formulated a response consistent with its purpose and resources. "The strength of the AMAA," according to the Executive Director of the Association, The Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, "lies in its record of integrity, credibility and loyal mission ministry among our people throughout the world, together with the moral and financial support of its caring members and generous friends."

## HENRY GERTMENIAN: A MAN ON FIRE FOR CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

—G.H. Choupourian

I met this soft-spoken, humble man at an Armenian Evangelical Union Annual Convention the first year I reached the United States in 1956 as a furloughed student from Cyprus and loved him immediately for his Christian concerns. His candid interest in the aspirations of a newcomer was a believable "welcome" since it was so genuine. And that's what Henry was to all—genuine friend.

Subsequently, I met him at meetings and functions of the AMAA Board of Directors, Haigazian College Trustees, Armenian Theological Student Aid, California District Committee, also at his business, residence and in our humble home. Somehow, he reached out everywhere and was part of all Armenian Evangelical life and thought without being exclusive.

To refresh my memory of Henry's involvements, I looked up the files at the AMAA office. When piled one on top of



AMAA Benefactor, Mr. Henry Gertmenian.

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION AND TESTIMONY FROM THE GERTMENIANS

Dear Friends:

Both my wife and I deeply regret that we are unable to be with you tonight as you commemorate the 71st anniversary of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. However, we send you our love, our best wishes and hearty congratulations. You are much in our thoughts and prayers and we are with you in spirit.

I was a young man of 18 years when this organization was founded. At that time many Armenians of the Diaspora had settled in different countries of the world—some in the United States, others in Syria, Lebanon, Iran, etc. Wherever they settled they established evangelical churches and parish schools for the educational needs of their young, many of whom were orphans. The schools were desperately in need of spiritual and financial aid and for this purpose the AMAA was organized.

When I came to San Francisco to start a rug business in 1927, it became necessary for me to make frequent trips to New York. The AMAA had an office there and I visited them often and became actively interested in their work.

Rev. Puzant Kalfayan was the first Director at that time and we became close friends. When he took trips to visit churches and Armenians in California I would often accompany him. On one occasion while I was in New York we had lunch together and made plans to take a trip together to Washington, D.C., later in the week. This never materialized, as we were notified the next morning that Rev. Kalfayan had died of a heart attack the night before. We were greatly saddened not only by the loss of a dear friend but also by the loss of such a dedicated and outstanding leader.

He was succeeded by Rev. Tovmassian, Dr. Choupourian and now Movses Janbazian. God has richly blessed us by providing wonderful leaders who have committed their energies and talents to meet the needs and goals of this organization. I deeply enjoyed my times of fellowship with all the Executive Directors.

As I think of the history of the AMAA I think of churches being helped and strengthened, of thousands of children being fed and educated, of Haigazian College meeting the needs of young people in the Middle East, and now of the strong response to urgent needs in our own Armenian communities in both North and South America. We thank God for His ever present help and pray for His continued blessings, in the years to come, on the AMAA and on all of you.

October 14, 1989  
Oakland, CA

Sincerely in His love.  
Henry and Eunice Gertmenian

the other, the files stand at least eight inches high and cover over half a century. One is taken aback by the ENORMOUS record of services he has rendered to evangelical causes, assisted by his very gracious wife, the former Eunice Matthews, whom he married in 1928. They were blessed, truly blessed, by their three children—Grace, Paul and Alfred. The record:

#### Armenian Theological Student Aid:

**Aid:** He was a founding member (1944) and President of this charitable organization for many years. The purpose of ATSA spoke to his heart, for he worked and prayed that God would prepare spiritual leaders worldwide through the Near East Theological School. Here, he spoke more strongly with his *wallet* than his words.



Henry and Eunice Gertmenian (left) with their eldest son, The Rev. Dr. Paul Gertmenian, and his wife, Eleanor.

**California District Committee of the AMAA:** Henry was the Chairman from its founding in 1944 to its dissolution in 1960 by mutual agreement of the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical Union of the Churches in California.

**Haigazian College Pioneer:** Involved from its establishment to the present as Honorary Life Member of the Trustees, he served as Chairman of the Trustees for many years and was bestowed an Honorary Doctorate by the College.

**AMAA Board of Directors:** Henry prayed for and worked closely with five Executives of the AMAA. These included the late Reverends A.A. Bedikian, Puzant Kalfayan, Edward S. Tovmassian; the Rev. Dr. G.H. Chopourian, Honorary Executive Director; and, currently, the Rev. Movses B. Janbazian. He was a source of encouragement and inspiration to each one of them.

Henry's personal contributions to Church Unions, churches, schools, AMAA and the disadvantaged were phenomenal. For example:

1. Due to his initiative and financial support, the Gertmenian School was established in Nor Hadjin in memory of his parents. The school is in a beautiful model building.

2. As a result of his gentle persuasion of the Shamlian-Tatigian families, partners

of the candy company that manufactured and marketed famous brands such as Mounds, Almond Joy and others, the large Shamlian-Tatigian School of Nor Marash was built, underwritten by the Shamlians/Tatigians of Connecticut.

3. The Iran Armenian Evangelical Church and School Complex is a tribute to the wisdom and missionary outreach of Henry and his colleagues in the discontinued Bethany Armenian Evangelical Church of Oakland. When the Church was sold by the unanimous decision of the congregation, the funds were given to the AMAA with this vision: to use the funds to construct other churches overseas as needed. Result: a parsonage and office complex and two satellite churches with their own buildings. The tide went down in Oakland and rose in Teheran. That's the nature of mission.

4. Henry was the life of the C.D.C. As Treasurer, and with Eunice as the Chairperson of the Oakland AMAA Committee, the AMAA received generous support from California.

5. More remarkable are the personal services and contributions of Henry and Eunice. Remember that question Democrats cast at George Bush? "Where was George?" If that question were raised about Henry and Eunice, the answer would be, "They were there."

Mention countries in which there was mission work, whether in South America, Australia, France, Syria,

Lebanon—Henry and Eunice were there. Speak of projects worldwide, and they were there. Name a need, an appeal, and they were there.

Yes! Henry and Eunice were there. No one can say, "Where were Henry and Eunice when the cries for help were raised?" They reached out to every need. And they have a couple of six-figure funds with the AMAA intended to make their presence felt in the future.

Henry has earned many accolades from:

Haigazian College Board of Trustees  
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church  
Knights of Vartan (Grand Commander in 1946)

AGBU, member since 1921 and Honorary Member since 1946

But I firmly believe that what warms Henry's and Eunice's souls most is the opportunity he has to pray individually for every minister in church Unions and the AMAA, to which he has given a large and intense portion of his life outside his family and business.

Henry was born of Hadjintzee parents on May 26, 1901, in Adana. I am privileged to say I am a countryman of his as I was born in Adana of Kharpetzee parents.

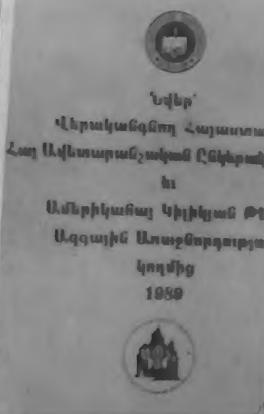
Eunice and Henry together have pleased God by their sincere, deep faith and works—two beautiful people justified not only by their works but by their faith in their personally known Savior.

## A BRICK MAKING MACHINE FOR ARMENIA

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, as part of their Armenia Relief program, have purchased and sent to Armenia a compressed soil block machine, according to a statement by The Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, Executive Director of AMAA. This unit, together with a truck donated by Mr. John Mirak of Arlington, MA, was airlifted to Frankfurt on Sunday, November 5, 1989, and trucked to Geneva, from where it was flown directly to Yerevan on a Russian cargo plane on November 10. This unit, the first of its kind to operate in Soviet Armenia, will operate initially in Spitak. A team of technicians is flying to Armenia to set up the machine and train local Armenians to run it.

Prior to its shipment, the machine was tested and dedicated at Hackensack, NJ, on October 24. Present at the dedication ceremonies were Mr. Robert Hekemian, Chairman of AMAA's Armenia Relief Task Force and a leading local builder and developer; Mr. Samuel Hekemian, brother of Mr. Robert Hekemian and also a leading local builder and developer; Mr. Armand Avakian, head of AMAA's Housing Project for Armenia; Messrs. Kevork and Jirair Hovnanian, prominent builders and developers in New Jersey and Florida; His Eminence Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Prelate of the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America; Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian, President of the AMAA; The Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, Executive Director of the AMAA; Mr. K. George Najarian, AMAA Project Director; several AMAA Board members; a number of friends and supporters of the AMAA; and representatives of local newspapers and television stations.

This machine uses a simple technique wherein a balanced combination of ordinary silt, sand and clay, readily available in Armenia, is put under intense hydraulic pressure to produce over 800 bricks per hour. One machine in one day can produce enough bricks to build all the exterior and interior walls of a 1,400 square foot house.



Top to bottom: The innovative compressed soil brick making machine ready to be tested before shipment to Armenia; AMAA and Prelacy representatives viewing the machine in operation; The finished product of the machine; and the dedicatory plaque showing the names of the donor organizations: AMAA and the Prelacy.

## REV. NYUJUKIAN VISITS MISSION FIELD IN SOUTH AMERICA

From August 9 to September 19, 1989, The Rev. Dr. Soghomon Nuyukian of Drexel Hill, PA, carried out a pastoral visit, on behalf of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), to the Armenian Evangelical churches in South America. Rev. Nuyukian divided his time among the churches in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Montevideo, Uruguay; and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

At the Armenian Evangelical Central Church of Sao Paulo, Rev. Nuyukian had the opportunity to preach to the congregation of about 120 families at two Sunday services. The Sao Paulo Church represents an effective Evangelical witness among the 20,000 Armenians living in Brazil. Among the noteworthy activities of the Church are: Missionary endeavors among the natives in the interior of the country and a "branch church" in Ferraz de Vasconcellos, a town about 40 miles from Sao Paulo. The Church has an active AMAA Chapter which promotes the purposes of the AMAA and shares in the Child Education Sponsorship Program and general ministries of the Association.

Rev. Nuyukian also attended several dinners and other church-related activities organized on the occasion of his visit to Sao Paulo. One such service was attended by the local Armenian Apostolic Prelate and the Armenian Apostolic and



*The Rev. Dr. Soghomon Nuyukian with the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sao Paulo, The Rev. Alberto Darahdian, and His Eminence, Bishop Datev Gharibian; Preaching on Radio Gomidas in Montevideo; and with the officers and ladies of the AMA-Argentina.*

### A BRICK MAKING MACHINE (continued from page 7)

As part of the AMAA's continuing rehabilitation and relief program for Armenia, this machine represents a self-help project intended to speed up the rebuilding of destroyed homes. Since it will free local villages from the need for cement, which is a scarce and tightly controlled commodity in the Soviet Union, it is especially appropriate for this task.

This pioneering project represents an investment of \$190,000 for the machine and an additional \$50,000 for spare parts, tools, supplies and technical assistance.

The AMAA and the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America are grateful to the Church World Service (CWS) of the National Council of the

Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., which helped in the realization of this project through a significant financial contribution to the AMAA. CWS has also substantially shared in other AMAA-sponsored Armenia Relief projects, such as mobile/psychiatric clinics and renewable energy systems.

### AMAA HELPS SAN FRANCISCO QUAKE VICTIMS

The AMAA has asked the member churches of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) to undertake a special offering on Sunday, October 22, 1989, on behalf of the victims of the recent San Francisco earthquake. This tragedy evokes memories of

the agony suffered by the survivors of the earthquake in Soviet Armenia and the compassionate response of the American people. This is an opportunity for Armenians to express their gratitude in a tangible way.

This offering will be channeled through the Church World Service, an organization that has contributed more than \$2 million for earthquake relief in Armenia. Church World Service also shared the cost of the mobile medical/psychiatric clinics, the adobe brick making machine and the wind turbine generator that the AMAA has purchased and sent to Armenia.

Catholic priests, turning the occasion into an ecumenical event.

In Montevideo, Rev. Nuyukian met with his sister, whom he had not seen for 59 years, and his sister's family. He preached to the congregation of 30 families at the Montevideo church on three Sundays and addressed the church's youth group which makes a significant contribution to the witness of the Church. Here, too, he participated in a number of meetings and visits.

The Pastor of the Church in Montevideo is The Rev. Obed Boyadjian, D.D.S., whose pastoral ministry is much appreciated both by the Evangelical and non-Evangelical Armenians in Montevideo.

Rev. Nuyukian's week in Buenos Aires was a busy one. He visited five Armenian schools, the Armenian Apostolic Prelacy, the Armenian Catholic Exarcate, the Armenian Missionary Association of Argentina (AMA-Argentina), the "Armenia" Publication House and the Armenian Old Age Home. In addition, he participated in religious services at the Armenian Evangelical Congregational Church of Buenos Aires, which has a congregation of approximately 150 members, and at



*Rev. Nuyukian with the youth group of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montevideo, and other activities, which are held in a three-story AMAA-owned building.*

Rev. Nuyukian feels that periodic visits such as his are a necessity in order to reduce the feelings of isolation by the Armenian communities in South America. "It is important to maintain these ties," says Rev. Nuyukian, "as expressions of our love and concern for our brothers and sisters in South America as they struggle to maintain their Armenian traditions and identity."

## HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE JOINT BOARDS MEET IN LOS ANGELES

The Annual joint meeting of the Haigazian College Board of Trustees and Board of Managers was held on August 19, 1989, at the Sheraton Universal Hotel. Some members of the Board of Managers had come all the way from Beirut, Lebanon, to discuss the future of Haigazian College.

The most prominent topic of discussion was the Lebanese socio-economic-political situation as it affects Haigazian College operations. We know that thousands have left war-torn Lebanon, but many more stayed behind through choice or necessity. It is primarily for these people that Haigazian College, against all odds and with profound determination, keeps its doors open. It is providing a vital service to the Armenian youth of Lebanon who are seeking a higher education.

Last year student enrollment was very



*Officers of Haigazian College Board of Trustees (left to right:) Louis Kurkjian, Asst. Treasurer; Dr. Rendel Levonian, Chairman; Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian, AMAA President; and Harold DeMirjian, Corresponding Secretary.*



Presenting Haigazian College Los Angeles Women's Auxiliary's check to Dr. Rendel Levonian are Hermine Janoyan and Joyce Abdulian. The officers and Board members of the Haigazian College Women's Auxiliary of Fresno, CA. close to the currently established capacity of 400.

The joint Board approved the Haigazian College operating budget for the academic year 1989-90 and recommended allocating \$166,000 as a subsidy from the AMAA; \$16,000 of the above will be contributed by the Stephen Philobosian Foundation. This recommendation was approved.

By previous arrangement, the Executive Committee members of the Los Angeles Women's Auxiliary of Haigazian College were invited to join the Board members for lunch. The newly elected Chairperson of the Auxiliary, Ms. Adrienne Sagherian, introduced the Executive Committee members and called

upon Ms. Hermine Janoyan and Ms. Joyce Abdulian to present a check in the amount of \$25,000 to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Levonian accepted this tangible expression of love and devotion and thanked the Women's Auxiliary for their dedicated and tireless efforts over the last thirty years. He acknowledged that their financial contributions are a very welcome and consistent source of income for the College.

Sunday afternoon, following the Board meeting on Saturday, a dinner, organized by the Haigazian College Alumni Association, was held to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Association's founding. The Board of Managers and their spouses were invited as honored guests of the

Alumni and enjoyed a delightful afternoon of dining and socializing at the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. John Conte of Malibu, CA.

The Alumni group has been reorganized under a new and enthusiastic leadership committed to promoting goodwill for and support of the College in every way possible. Their efforts are, indeed, welcomed by the AMAA and the Trustees, Managers, Administration and Faculty of the College.

Haigazian College was reopened last October with a student body of 320. A large majority (70%) of these students are Armenian; the rest are Christian Lebanese.

## UAECNE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONFRS WITH AMAA LEADERS

The Rev. Krikor Youmoushakian of Beirut, Lebanon, the recently appointed Executive Secretary of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE), visited the United States last September for important consultations with officers and Board members of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

The UAECNE is the Union of all Armenian Evangelical churches in Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Egypt and Iran. It is a major mission partner in the AMAA's missionary outreach in those countries, which involve 27 churches, 14 schools, Haigazian College, Aleppo Col-

lege and a number of old-age homes, hospitals, medical clinics, social service centers and youth camps.

Rev. Youmoushakian conferred with the AMAA leadership on the precarious situation of the Armenian Evangelical churches and communities in the Middle East. Problems requiring immediate attention include: emigration, lack of leadership, acute shortages of basic necessities, runaway inflation and absence of personal safety.

During his 15-day stay in the United States, Rev. Youmoushakian also visited Armenian Evangelical churches and pastors as well as AMAA leaders in New



The Rev. Krikor Youmoushakian, Executive Secretary of UAECNE.

England and California.

In his extensive report to the AMAA Board of Directors, Rev. Youmoushakian stated: "The Armenian Evangelical churches and communities in Lebanon, along with other people of that war-ravaged country, are going through a difficult time of suffering, fear and economic crisis. The

future is uncertain. Peace seems to be an impossible dream. People are tired. They are in despair. They need the love, solidarity, moral support and helping hands of our brothers and sisters in America.

"We praise God for those faithful servants who, under very difficult cir-

cumstances, continue their services to our churches, schools, service centers and institutions in the Middle East. We thank those churches and organizations, and especially our own AMAA and its leaders for the wholehearted and generous support with which they make our presence and witness possible in the Middle East."

## THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VISIT WITH MISSION PARTNERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Rev. Movses B. Janbazian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), spent nearly the entire month of August, 1989, visiting Evangelical churches in Greece, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon in order to get a firsthand view of their problems, needs and hopes. Included in his itinerary was the third meeting of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held in Athens, Greece, during the first week of August.

**Greece**—In Athens, Rev. Janbazian met with AMAA supporters, conferred with local church leaders and visited the churches of Kokkinia and Derghouty. The AMAA supports the general ministry of these churches and provides assistance to their kindergarten and relief programs. The two churches are continuing their vital ministry to the ever-increasing Armenian refugee population of Athens.

**Turkey**—In Istanbul, Rev. Janbazian was accompanied by The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, the newly elected President of the Armenian Evangelical World Council. In the course of their four-day stay, they were able to visit the Evangelical churches, preach from their pulpits and meet with their leaders; take a side trip to the Touzla Summer Camp of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Gedik Pasha; visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople; meet with the Armenian Apostolic Patriarch, His Beatitude Archbishop Shnork Kaloustyan; and visit the Karaguezian orphanage and the "Sourp Pergich" hospital.

There are three Evangelical churches in Istanbul. First is the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church of Beyoglu (Pera). The founding of this church in 1846 signaled the emergence of the



The Rev. Movses B. Janbazian and The Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian with His Eminence, Patriarch Shnork Kaloustyan (left). The front view of the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church of Beyoglu (right).



Children of the Karaguezian orphanage during lunch.



Reverends Janbazian and Tootikian with Brothers Samuel Kavafian (second from left) and Jan Seven (right) from Emmanuel Church; and with the officers and some of the members of the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church of Beyoglu.



Some of the members of the Gedikpasha Church Council (left to right): Mrs. Aznif Artik, Mr. Sarkis Akkoush, and Mr. Dikran Bandoian; and the front view of the Gedikpasha Church.

teachers in Armenian schools. Rev. Janbazian was impressed by the Patriarch's warmth, spiritual insight and knowledge. "He is surely one of the most capable, prepared and distinguished Armenian churchmen of our times. The patience, the wisdom and the tact with which he deals with the many and varied problems of our community in Turkey deserve admiration and commendation," said Rev. Janbazian.

One of the highlights of Rev. Janbazian's trip to Istanbul were a visit to the Karaguezian Orphanage and a meeting with Patriarch Shnorh Kaloustyan. The Patriarch acknowledged that the Armenian community in Istanbul faced many problems, but felt that some of them were being solved through patience and perseverance. His primary concerns were emigration, a shortage of priests and a critical need for religious education.

**Syria and Lebanon**—In Syria, Rev. Janbazian met with pastors and church leaders representing Evangelical churches in Aleppo, Damascus and Kessab, and spent a day with more than 120 young people at a Summer Camp program at Kessab.

In his report to the AMAA Board of Directors, Rev. Janbazian stated,



The Rev. Janbazian with pastors of the Armenian Evangelical churches in Syria (left); and addressing the participants in the Christian Youth Camp program in Syria.

"Courage and loyalty in the face of unimaginable difficulties and trials. These words present the summation of my impressions of the witness of our churches and the sacrificial labors of our pastors and lay leaders in Lebanon and Syria. It

would be wrong to say I was impressed by their commitment. I was simply overwhelmed and humbled."

Acting upon a list of recommendations submitted by Rev. Janbazian, the AMAA Board of Directors adopted a number of

resolutions aimed at enhancing the Association's support of the courageous and sacrificial labors of the pastors and lay leaders in Lebanon, who are doing their best under difficult and often impossible circumstances.

## GIVING AND RECEIVING

"As I get older, I think more and more about how to share my bounty with needy Armenians worldwide and still leave something for my children. All three are married and well-off, but I'm sure they'd welcome some extra money.

"I have some appreciated stock, paying me about 3%, which I was thinking of selling, but I didn't like the prospect of paying taxes on the capital gain. Instead, I am donating it to the AMAA under its Lifetime Income plan. This way, I pay no taxes on the stock and I receive a return of about 9% of its value for the rest of my life. I also get a big tax deduction for my donation.

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## TESTIMONIAL BANQUET FOR THREE OUTSTANDING ARMENIAN COUPLES

The date was September 2, 1989, and the setting was the recently inaugurated social hall of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA. Nearly two hundred friends, relatives and admirers had gathered for the purpose of publicly recognizing three distinguished evangelicals for their many years of selfless service to the cause of the Armenian Evangelical movement and to the Armenian people in general, both in the Middle East and in the United States.

The honorees were:

Mr. Augustine Badeer, Hospital Administrator

Mr. Puzant Gulessarian, Businessman  
Dr. Puzant Krikorian, Surgeon

The master of ceremonies was Rev. Bernard Guekguezian. Sharing their comments and reflections were Rev. A. Chaparian, Rev. B. Darakjian, Rev. H. Missirlian, Rev. H. Sagherian and several family members and close friends. Each honoree was presented with a plaque, prepared by the organizing committee, expressing gratitude and appreciation.

Representing the AMAA at the testimonial were Dr. P. Hovnanian, President of the AMAA Board of Directors, and Mr. H. DeMirjian, an AMAA Board member. They too presented to the honorees and their wives plaques of appreciation for their many years of dedication and support for the AMAA and the AEUNA.

The event was conceived and organized by a committee of five couples whose lives had been touched by the honorees. They are:

Arsen and Sona Alikian  
Albert and Jeanette Andonian  
Joseph and Haigouhi Iskikian  
John and Yevnegue Shahinian  
Don and Margaret Watson

In the words of the organizing committee, "We find Armenian Christians everywhere, but Christian Armenians are very few. May the Lord bless them and their families."

In the words of our Lord, "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:23)

Albert Andonian



The honorees (left to right): Mr. and Mrs. Puzant Gulessarian, Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Badeer, and Dr. and Mrs. Puzant Krikorian; and members of the Testimonial Banquet Committee.

### A "THANK YOU" NOTE FROM THE KRIKORIANS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am now 80 years old and the end is in sight. My Lord will no doubt call me home one of these days. On the second of September, 1989, a gathering of friends took place in the beautiful new reception hall of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA, honoring Augustine Badeer's, Puzant Gulessarian's and my past activities. Many who were there had made great sacrifices to be present, some traveling as much as 3,000 miles. Others, who could not attend personally, had sent letters of congratulations and testimonials to express their feelings. A committee of loving friends devoted several months of time, thought and effort planning and organizing the affair to make the occasion such

a wonderful success. The two days following the event I spent reading the many testimonials from friends who could not be there physically. It took me a long time to read them because I frequently had to remove my glasses to wipe the tears from my eyes to clear my vision. I was greatly touched by them all. If any of the activities of my life have been of benefit to someone, all praise and glory belongs to my Creator, and not to me, an earthen vessel.

With this writing it is Margaret's and my wish to say a big THANK YOU to all those who have contributed to make the occasion a very happy and enjoyable celebration for us. We thank the Lord for your love and covet your prayers.

Margaret and Puzant Krikorian  
Fresno, California

## A LIVING MEMORIAL TO ARAXIE KOUYOUMJIAN POLADIAN

—by G. H. Chopourian

Principal of the Eshrefi School of the Armenian Evangelical Church community, and later as Principal of the Armenian Evangelical High School in the city of Beirut.

The Rev. P.H. Kalfayan, who knew her well since his very young days in Aleppo and Beirut, wrote about her in a eulogy in 1957, "She was a woman of exceptional spiritual and intellectual endowments . . . but without vanity . . . and she demonstrated those qualities in each passing phase of her life."

His mother's life was so full, rich, beneficial and exemplary that we consider it appropriate to offer the story to the public. The Rev. Puzant Kalfayan, the late Executive Secretary of the AMAA, testified in 1957 that Mrs. Poladian's works and life bore a heavy influence on his own life while a youth in Aleppo, Syria.

Mrs. Araxie was born on January 5, 1886 in Marash, Turkey, to an Armenian Protestant family, Panos and Hanum Haidostian. Having shown great aptitude for learning in her early years, she was chosen for further schooling beyond the Secondary school level. This was the period at the turn of the Century of the very early beginnings of exposure of young Armenian girls to higher education, thanks to American and British missionary educators and their institutions in various parts of Anatolia. So it was that Araxie, in her early teens, was sent to "Hajin Home," an American Mission School for girls in Hajin, Turkey, under the very capable direction of the famous educator and missionary, Miss Coffin. After graduation she was then sent to Yerad College for further graduate training, and upon her return home to Marash, was appointed a teacher at the newly founded American College for Girls, and thus started her long career in teaching and education.

In 1907 she married The Rev. Nerves Kouyoumjian of Adiyaman, but, unfortunately, this marriage ended in great tragedy when Badveli Nerves was murdered at the Osmanieh Evangelical Church on April 14, 1909, along with a group of other ministers and elders on their way to Adana, during the infamous "Adana Massacre." Five weeks later her son, Armen Nerves, was born. Thus, father and son never got to know each other. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Araxie returned home to Marash to continue her teaching career at the Women's College until its closure in 1922.

The Marash Massacre of January, 1920, was the next big tragedy for the Armenians

of Marash. It was a miracle that Mrs. Araxie and her son survived this affair, after suffering through unbelievably harrowing experiences.

In 1921, while still in Marash and teaching at the Girl's College, Mrs. Araxie married Dr. V. Poladian of Marash. Dr. Poladian's wife had been killed during the Marash battle. This marriage joined Mrs. Araxie and her son, Armen, with Dr. Poladian's younger children, Zabel, Armine and Haroutune, into a happy new family, which moved to Aleppo after the forced evacuation of Marash, and later to Beirut in 1933. She lost her second husband in 1937, and following that, she made her home with her stepdaughter, Armine (Mrs. Dikran Berberian). In 1946 she came to the United States and from 1947 until her death on November 10, 1956, she lived with the Berberian family in Loudonville, NY.

During the 10-11 years in Aleppo with her husband, the good doctor, she lived a very useful life, serving the community and church. Her main interest was in the Christian Endeavor Movement. She spared no effort in founding and developing "Christian-Endeavor Union" chapters in the Near East. Dr. Poling, the International President of this Movement, had been her great hero throughout her adult life.

Later, in the 30's and early 40's while in Beirut, she served with great distinction as

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The Armenian Missionary Association of America, along with its \$2,000,000 rehabilitation program for the victims of the earthquake of last December, is making every effort to deliver as many Bibles as possible to Armenia for distribution to our people. After successfully delivering a shipment of 5,000 Bibles in May, the AMAA, in cooperation with the Armenian Evangelical Union of France and the International Bible Society, will provide 40,000 Bibles for distribution in Armenia. This is a historic opportunity to make the comforting and reviving Word of God available to our people in our "Myre Hairenik."

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